

COLLABORATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS: PROMISING EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD

Facilitators:

- **Karen Baker, NSVRC Director**
- **Maia Christopher, Executive Director, ATSA**

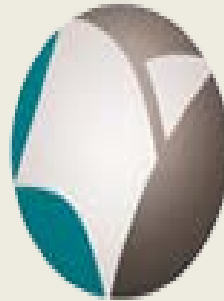
Panelists:

- **Leanne Gillespie, Hawaii Department of Public Safety**
- **Laura Cordes, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence**
- **Elizabeth Barnhill, Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

July 22, 2016

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CSOM



NSVRC

national sexual violence resource center

Resource
Sharing
Project



OVERARCHING GOAL OF THE INITIATIVE

To enhance community capacity to jointly address sexual victimization – specifically through collaboration between sexual assault victim advocates and sex offender treatment and management professionals.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

- Explore perspectives, practice trends, strengths and challenges regarding collaboration
- Assist with facilitating cross-disciplinary dialogue, collaboration
- Disseminate information, tools to the field
- Provide TTA to promote collaboration

TODAY'S FACILITATORS



Ms. Karen Baker

Director, National Sexual Violence Resource Center

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Ms. Maia Christopher

Executive Director, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

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TODAY'S SESSION

- Why collaborate?
- Key findings from needs assessments completed by victim advocates and sex offender treatment providers
- Promising examples of collaboration from the field:
 - Hawaii
 - Connecticut
 - Iowa
- Questions
- Summary

WHY COLLABORATE?



COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT FOR ADVANCING SHARED GOALS

- Promoting community safety
- Reducing, preventing sexual violence
- Promoting informed public policy
- Dispelling myths, educating the public and others
- Changing norms that support abusive behaviors
- Maximizing resources
- Ensuring victim-centeredness

POLLING QUESTION

- Are you currently participating in a collaborative project between victim advocates and sex offender management professionals?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not currently but I plan to soon

KEY FINDINGS

**Building Capacity to Reduce Sexual Victimization by
Promoting Collaboration Among Victim Advocates
and Sex Offender Management Practitioners**

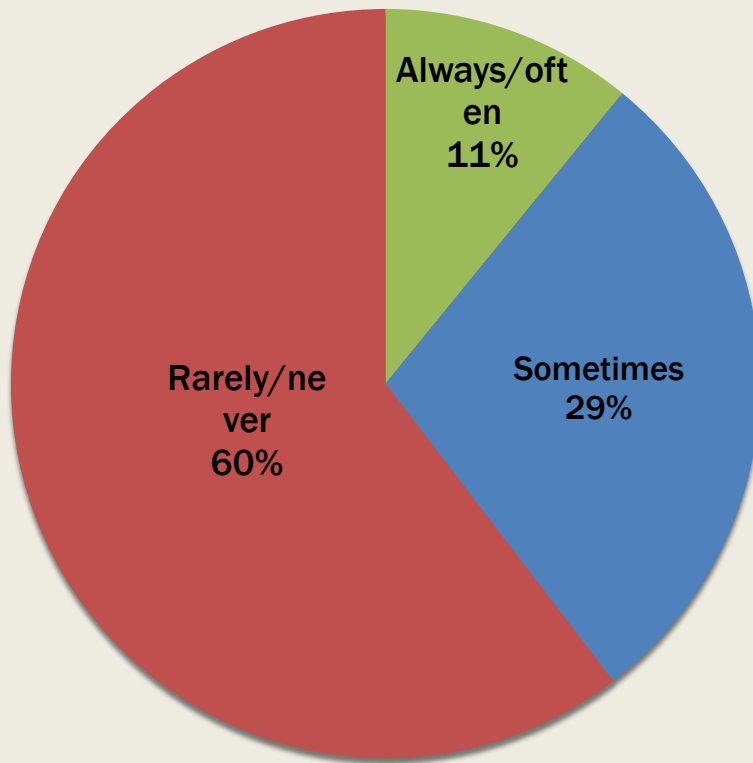
**Victim
advocates
and sex
offender
treatment
providers**

NATIONAL SAMPLES

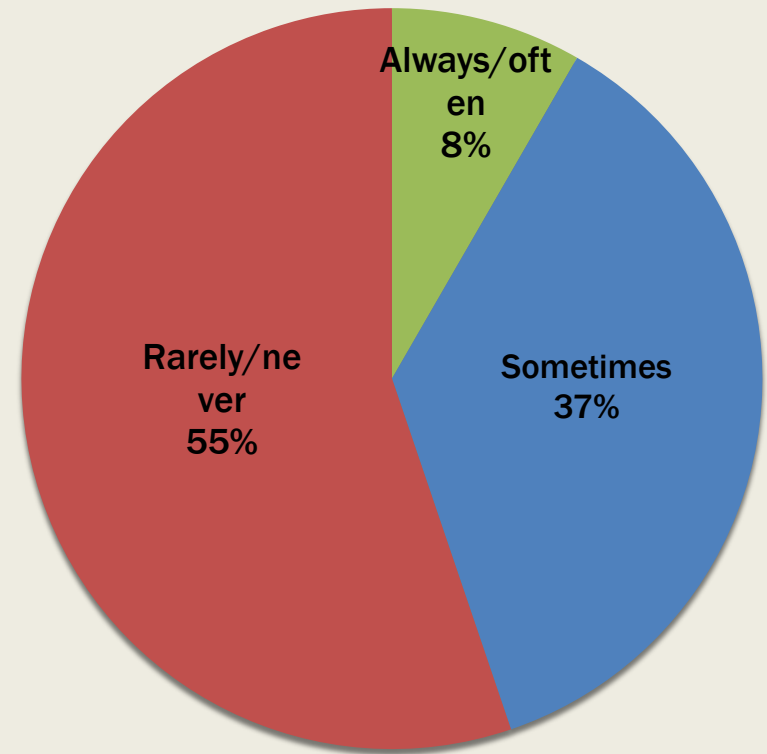
- **Victim advocates (N=323)**
- **Sex offender treatment providers (N=370)**

“HOW OFTEN DOES COLLABORATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS OCCUR IN YOUR COMMUNITY?”

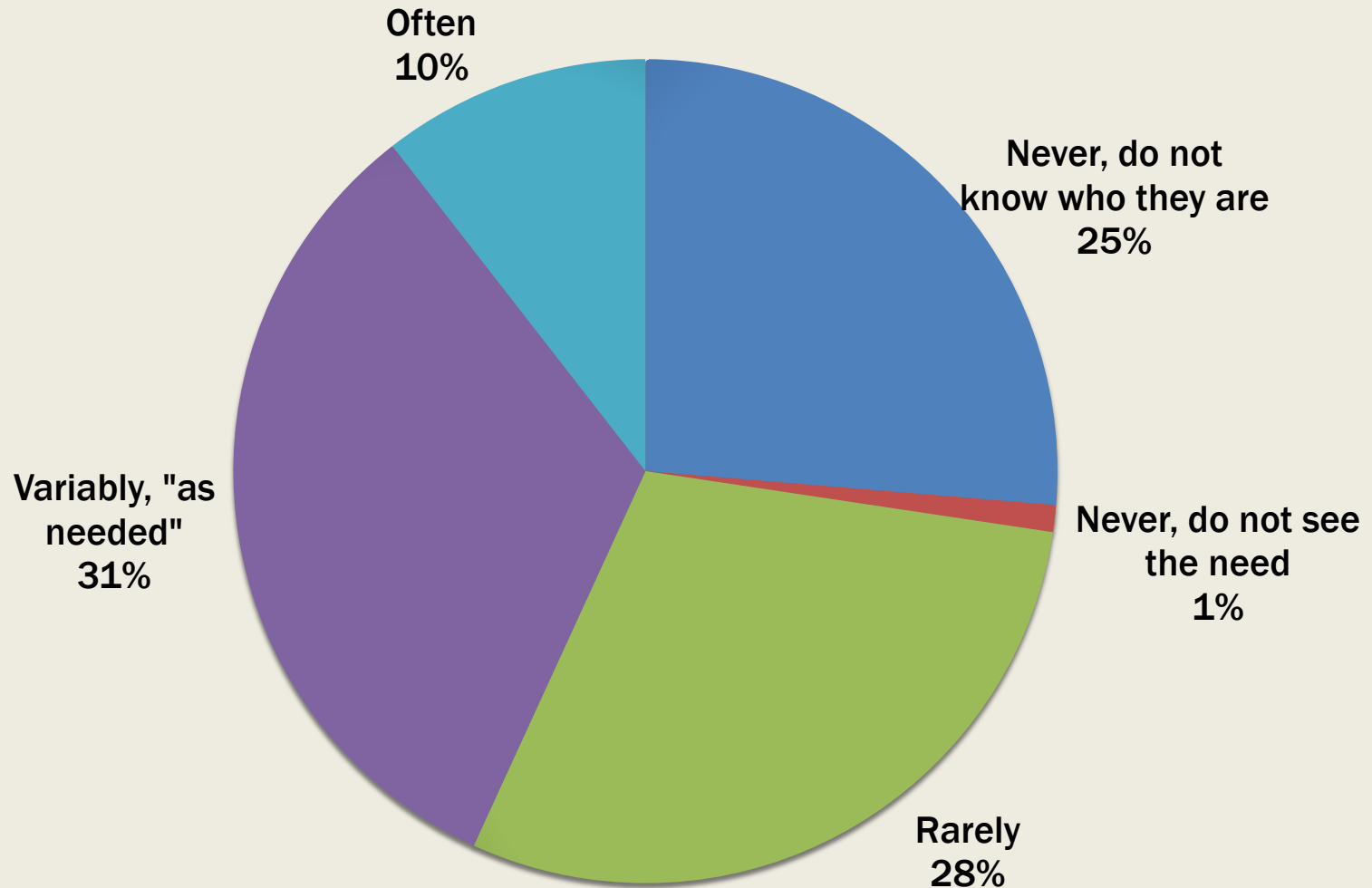
Victim advocates’ perceptions



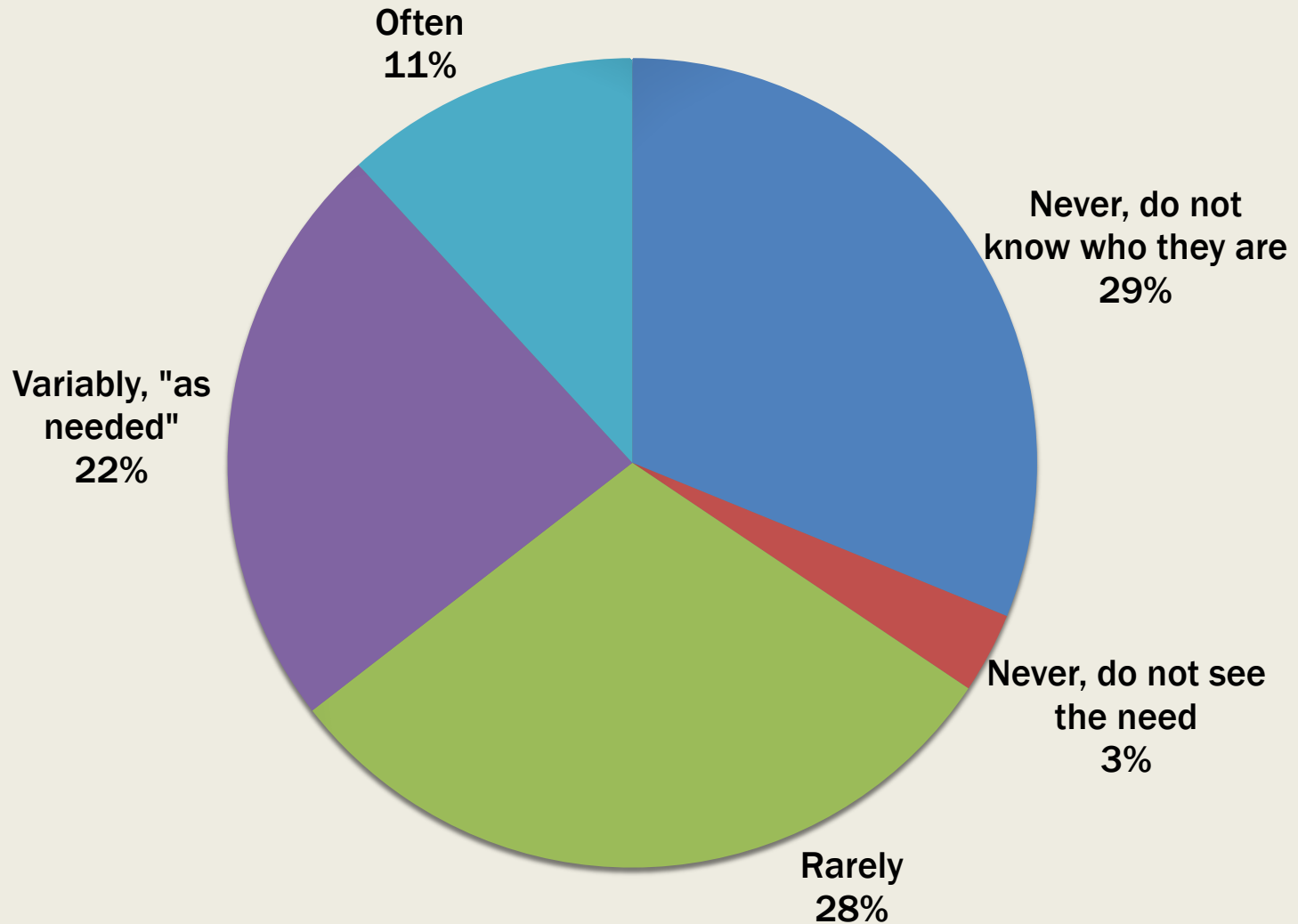
Sex offender treatment providers’ perceptions



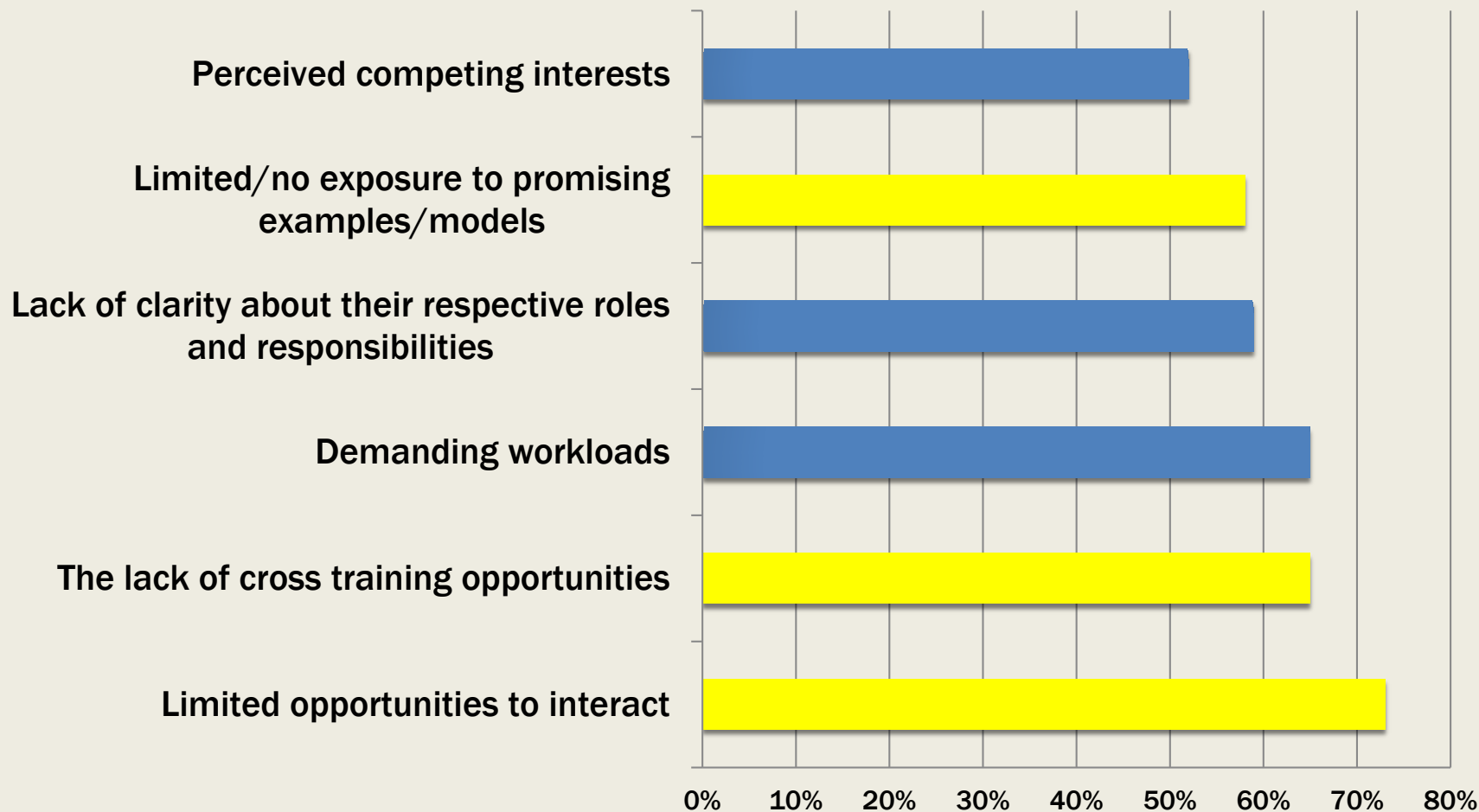
FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROVIDERS: TREATMENT PROVIDERS' PERSPECTIVES



FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROVIDERS: VICTIM ADVOCATES' PERSPECTIVES



MOST COMMONLY CITED BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION BETWEEN VICTIM ADVOCATES AND SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS



SHIFTING CONFLICT TO CONVERSATION

Listening

- Becoming bilingual
- Realizing a continuum
- Asking questions



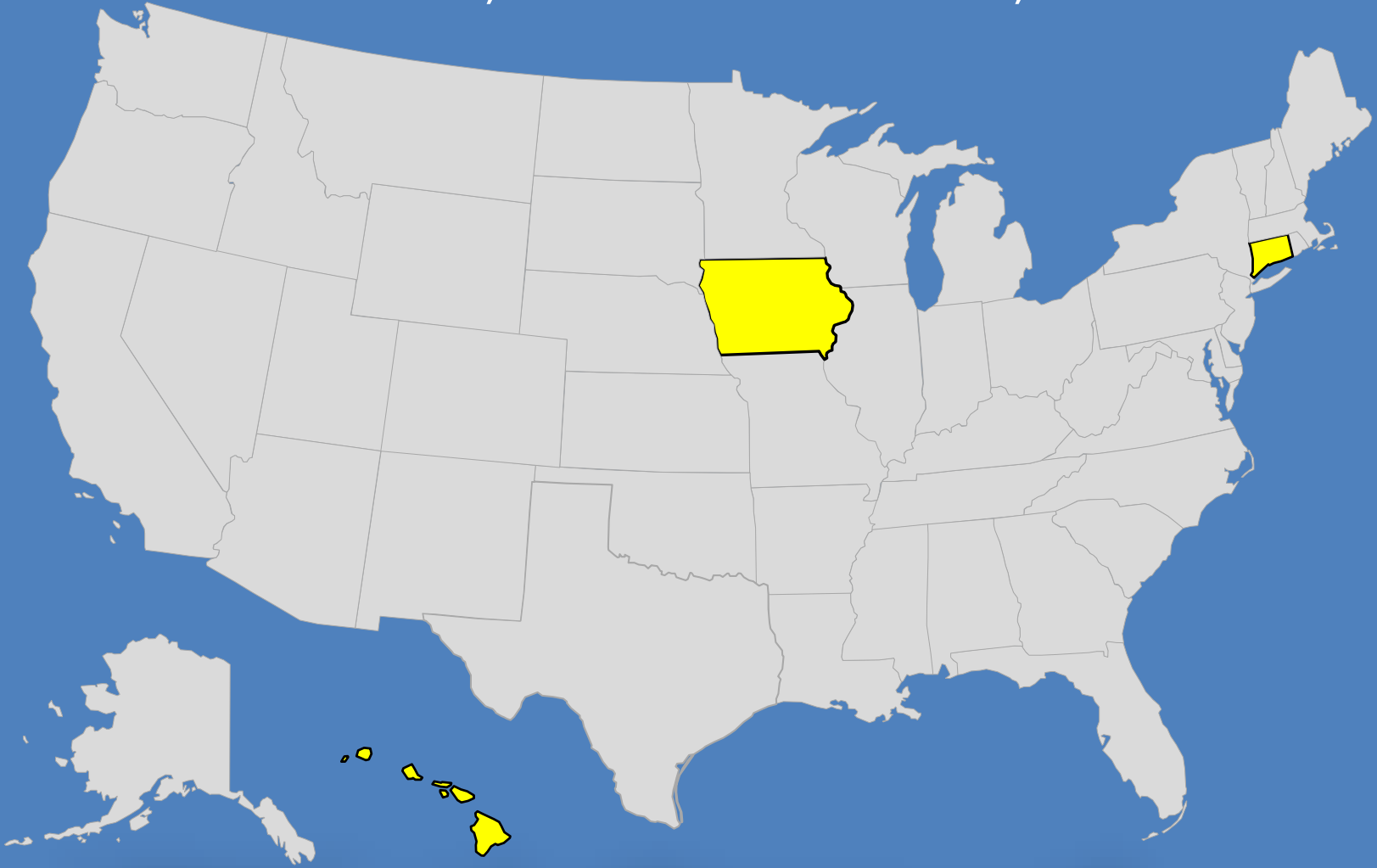
Telling Stories

- Defining terms
- Respecting the experience
- Putting things in context



GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY

HAWAI'I, CONNECTICUT, IOWA





HAWAII

LEANNE GILLESPIE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Promising
Examples
from the
Field**



We Don't Know What We Don't Know:

A Hawai'i Experience
of Collaboration for the Prevention of
Sexual Assault

Leanne Gillespie
Department of Public Safety
Sex Offender management Team



Background

► Sex Offender Management Team (SOMT)

Department of Public Safety

Hawaii Paroling Authority

the Judiciary

Department of Health

Department of Human Services

Office of Youth Services

- promotes informed and effective policy and practice regarding adults and youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior.

► the Judiciary

- *Rosemarie Albano, Adult Probation, Sex Offender Unit Supervisor*
- *Cheryl Inouye, Adult Probation, Section Administrator*



Background

► **Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault (HCASA)**

- Paula Chun, Executive Director
- Valued for its work with Hawai'i's sexual assault centers and others to encourage appropriate system response to sexual assault.

► **Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC)** of the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children

- Cindy Shimomi-Saito, Associate Director
- Brooke Conway, Education & Community Outreach Manager
- Valued for its leadership and expertise in providing treatment services for survivors of sexual assault, preventing sexual violence and effecting change.

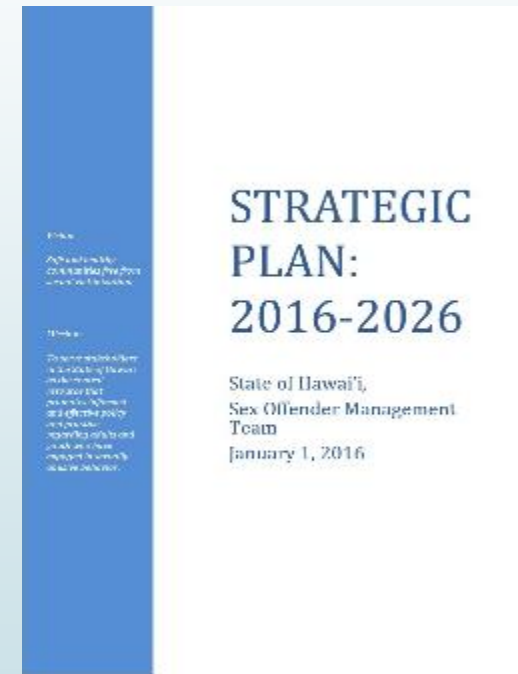
Examples in Hawai'i

► Development of the Master Plan for standards for treatment and supervision

- Involvement of victim advocates, public health and human services
- Funding
- Victim-centered language

► Development of a Strategic Plan

- Goal: partner with other agencies to promote public education for the prevention of sexual assault



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Our “Aha” Moment

Sex Abuse Treatment Center Campaign

“Know the line, [Respect] the Line, Protect the Line”



A sex assault prevention campaign for men and women.

Shots – a video project of collaboration

OVW Grant#2014-SW-AX-0004

- ▶ Before and after
- ▶ Benefits
- ▶ Responses
- ▶ Video link:

<http://tinyurl.com/HawaiiShots>



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It's Okay – We Don't Know What We Don't Know

- ▶ Identify who's who
- ▶ Respect each other's role and expertise
- ▶ Be a good listener
- ▶ Get the lay of the land from each other's perspectives
- ▶ No passing judgement - "it is what it is"
- ▶ Don't have to be defensive or territorial
- ▶ Be authentic
- ▶ Identify common vision, goals

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Challenges

- ▶ Convincing others when you don't have all the answers
- ▶ Lack of knowledge/understanding
- ▶ Different perspectives
- ▶ Language



Subsequent Collaborations

- ▶ Post video educational materials for potential offenders
- ▶ OVW Technical Assistance and Training
- ▶ Probation, sex assault victim advocates, police, and prosecutor's
- ▶ Probation and police
- ▶ Community Action Team participation
- ▶ *Shots II* video project



Lessons Learned



- Apparently Irrelevant Meetings
- Importance of building relationships, trust and respect
- We don't know what we don't know
- Be willing to take healthy risks
- We don't need to know exactly what the “end” looks like (but we need a common goal)
- Process of building relationships, trust and respect
- Celebrate successes and share with others in the field



Thank you!

Leanne Gillespie

Email: Leanne.N.Gillespie@Hawaii.gov



CONNECTICUT

LAURA CORDES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Promising
Examples
from the
Field

Connecticut's Model Statewide Sex Offender Management and Supervision Units

July 22, 2016

**CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS



About The Alliance

Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive, and culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

Support. Advocate. Prevent.

SUPPORT

the development of standards and secure core funding for statewide victim support and advocacy services through nine member programs. Provide post conviction sexual assault victim advocates

ADVOCATE

for administrative and legislative changes to systems, to uphold and expand victims rights and services and to hold offenders accountable for the harm they have caused

PREVENT

sexual violence before it starts through prevention education and training programs to change the cultural attitudes and behaviors that support victim blaming and perpetuate violence

Sex Offender Supervision Units Sex Offender Management Units

PROBATION & PAROLE UNITS

Court Support Services Division/Judicial Branch

18 SO Probation Units -specialized POs

Department of Correction

5 SO Parole Units – specialized POs

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATES

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

12 specialized advocates cover all units

Funded through state dollars and federal STOP

TREATMENT PROVIDERS

The Connection/
Center for the
Treatment of Problem
Sexual Behavior
cover all units
Contracted through
state



Collaboration - Sex Offender Units HISTORY

First unit: 1996 in New London began collaboration between The Alliance, CTPSB, CSSD probation officers and DOC parole officers

Units followed in New Haven and Hartford before being utilized statewide

Since 2007 Connecticut has had specialized SO probation and parole units for every offender released throughout the state



Collaboration - Sex Offender Units

ROLES

Probation/Parole Officers:

focus on community safety as well as the offender's conditions. Ongoing supervision, home visits, collaboration individually and with team for offender approved supervisors

Treatment Providers: Provide weekly treatment groups with offenders (required) on unit, ongoing risk assessment, collaboration individually and with team for offender approved supervisors



Collaboration - Sex Offender Units

ROLES

Victim Advocates:

Short Term Provide notification of offender release, safety planning, short term crisis counseling, referrals for services (including victim's compensation); relay questions and concerns to the other unit members with victim permission

Long Term: Serve as victim's voices in collaboration and decisions made by the unit; speak for the victim in the case, but also for victims in general. Focus on community safety



Collaboration - Sex Offender Units

ROLES

Victim Advocates:

- * Gather Pre-Sentence Investigation Victim Impact Statements
- * Assist victims in filing for restitution or completing victim assistance applications
- * Provide information and guidance on civil matters
- * Help to organize and participate in the reunification process, as well as family meetings
- * Provide information to offender family members and individuals close to them on the supervision process, as well as referrals for services when needed

Snapshot Victims and Offenders on Unit

183 new cases during September - December 2015

Victims were under the age of 16 in 79% of cases:

- * 34% victims under the age of 12, the youngest being 2
Average age of victim: 8. Average age of offender: 33
- * 45% victims were between the age of 12-15
Offenders ranging in age from 16-75, average age: 32



Collaboration - Sex Offender Units

SUCSESSES/CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES

Positive Victim Impact

Clearer communication in community

Indicators of lower recidivism rates

State deficit and layoffs, larger case loads

Collaboration for Adult offenders only; Juvenile system not coordinated

New Sentencing Commission Special Committee on Sex Offenders

Thank You!

Laura Cordes

Laura@endsexualviolencect.org

endsexualviolencect.org

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS



IOWA

ELIZABETH BARNHILL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
IOWA COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Promising
Examples
from the
Field**

The Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

- Began as volunteer multi-disciplinary committee in 1987 (Sex Offender Treatment Steering Committee)
- Initial Goals: minimum level of competence, responsibilities and services expected of treatment program providers
- Program Standards finalized in December of 1992
- Substance abuse counselor staff certification program structure used as a guide in development of Sex Offender Treatment Provider (SOTP) certification.

The Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers

- **IBTSA, formed as non-profit in 1993, promulgates**
 - Program standards
 - Sex offender treatment provider certification guidelines
 - IBTSA certifies providers
 - IBTSA has an ethics committee available to review complaints

Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Membership

- Representative from judicial districts' Department of Correctional Services (8)
- State Department of Corrections
- State Department of Human Services
- DOC institutions[includes child protective services]
- DOC training center
- Iowa State Training School [juveniles]
- *Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault*
- Iowa Corrections Association
- *Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse Program*
- Community Mental Health
- Private Practice
- *Local victim services agency*
- *Survivor*
- County attorney
- Community treatment
- Polygraphers
- Psychologist
- Law Enforcement
- Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders
- Plethysmography service provider
- Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment
- DD/MR Sex Offender Treatment
- Iowa Board of Parole
- Members-at-Large (3)

IBTSA philosophy of sex offender treatment

Recognizes progress must proceed along four fronts:

- 1) Prevention
- 2) Treatment of victims
- 3) Evaluation and treatment of offenders
- 4) Community education

IBTSA philosophy of sex offender treatment

Sex Offender Treatment is only one part of intervention. Others include:

- Safety and assistance for victims
- Prompt and effective law enforcement response
- Appropriate adjudication
- Close monitoring by probation
- Sentences that reflect the seriousness of the crime

Coordinated efforts should include assessing the impact of treatment on the victim, input from advocacy groups should be specifically solicited.

IBTSA philosophy of sex offender treatment

Prevention identified as having three targets:

1. Potential victims
2. Potential offenders
3. Aspect of societal norms that tolerate and encourage abusive behavior
 1. Should include challenging societal supports for abuses of power

Standards for methods of service provision include:

Local communication network that includes victim service providers

Certification standards require 6 hours on victimization

Sex offender treatment providers have attended training provided by the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault and/or local sexual assault crisis centers

Sex Offender Treatment Professional Certification

- highlights related to victim issues

- **4 benefits of certification**

- **For the Offender**
- **For the Professional**
- **For the Profession**
- **For the Victim**

- To ensure that the priorities of intervention are the safety of the community and the victims, prevention of further victimization and restoration of the physical and emotional integrity of victims and families

Victim Impact Section of Syllabus for IBTSA Pre-Service Training Program

- **Victim Traumatization**
 - Understanding trauma and how to incorporate perspective into treatment program
 - Understanding how societal roles and power contribute to victimization
 - Knowledge of the consequences of insensitivity to victim traumatization
 - Biological impact of victimization

Victim Impact Section of Syllabus for IBTSA Pre-Service Training Program continued

- **Victim/Offender Treatment Coordination**
 - Understanding the difference between victim and offender treatment issues and how to determine when treatment coordination would be mutually beneficial
 - Knowledge of effective methods in repairing the damage done to victims while increasing the effectiveness of offender treatment and reducing recidivism
 - Ability to provide offenders an opportunity to understand and feel empathy for victims in order to establish remorse and assure the victim and offender that he/she can safely return to the community.

IBTSA facts

- IBTSA began and continues as essentially a peer-led organization; no specific state funding
- Has had no dedicated staff, although an upper management DOC staffer has devoted considerable time to management
- Standards, certification and other guidelines were developed by group reviewing best practices available at the time and have been revised accordingly

IBTSA-inspired collaborations (but not officially IBTSA sponsored)

- Changes in sex offender laws led to the statutorily-created Sex Offender Research Council
- Collaborative response to residency restrictions:
 - Groups of statewide:
 - law enforcement agencies
 - prosecutors
 - Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Abuse
 - Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
 - did statewide education, including meeting with editorial boards, issuing press releases, resulted in changes to residency restrictions

Other collaborations that begun as a result of IBTSA relationship

- **PREA grant**
 - Employed IowaCASA trainer, collaboration to develop DOC training and responses
 - Developed responses to inmates who are victims of sex offenses (including those incarcerated for sex offenses)
 - Statewide system of psychoeducational groups using the *Seeking Safety* model

Documents available

- Iowa Sex Offender Treatment Program Standards, revised November 2008
- Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Application Handbook for Sex Offender Treatment Professional Certification, July 2008
- Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers brochure
- Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Complexion of Membership
- Iowa Board for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Committee Membership Roster FY 2011
- Website



QUESTIONS
OR
COMMENTS?

COMMON GOALS – END SEXUAL ABUSE



**THANK YOU FOR
PARTICIPATING!**

Please
complete
the
evaluation
after
signing off.